

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of managing electronic documents comprising:

providing a user with access to a plurality of prior art references, wherein each reference is an electronic document;

maintaining an association at a computer system between a first set of one or more references and a first case file, wherein the first case file corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein the association between the first set of references and the first case file indicates that each of the references in the first set of references are relevant to the first patent application; application, and should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the first patent application;

maintaining an association at the computer system between a second set of one or more references and a second case file, wherein the second case file corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein the association between the second set of references and the second case file indicates that each of the references in the second set of references is relevant to the second patent application; application, and should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the second patent application;

providing a first interface element that is configured to allow a user to invoke a display of a list of the second set of references;

receiving, at the computer system, a first input from a user, the first input corresponding to the first interface element;

in response to the first input, ~~displaying~~ displaying, at the computer, a list of the second set of references, wherein ~~the display~~ displaying the list of the second set of references

comprises displaying an identifier corresponding to a first reference within the second set of references;

providing a second interface element that is configured to allow the user to identify the first reference as being relevant to the first patent application and indicate that the first reference should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the first patent application;

receiving, at the computer system, a second input from the user, the second input corresponding to the second interface element;

in response to the second input, associating, via an automated process at the computer system, the first reference with the first case file; and

creating, via an automated process at the computer system, an electronic information disclosure statement for the first patent application, wherein the electronic disclosure statement comprises information corresponding to the first reference.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying for the user the second case file and links to each reference in the second set of references.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a third case file and links to a third set of references, comprising one or more of the plurality of references, for a user, the third case file corresponding to a third patent application and being associated with the third set of references.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying identifiers corresponding to each of the one or more references in the first and second sets of references in individual rows of a first column, and displaying first and second case file identifiers at the top of second and third columns, wherein the rows of the second column include a marker when the reference corresponding to the row is associated with the first case file, and wherein the rows of the third column include a marker when the reference corresponding to the row is associated with the second case file.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first patent application and second patent application are related patent applications.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the first patent application and second patent application have a common inventor.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the first patent application and second patent application have the same assignee.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the second patent application relates to a continuation patent application of the first patent application.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the second patent application relates to a continuation-in-part patent application of the first patent application.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 further comprising displaying a search screen to search for additional case files corresponding to applications related to the first patent application.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of references is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of references is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of references is an electronic version of a publication.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of references comprises storing at least some of the plurality of references in a database.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of references comprises storing in a database information from at least some of the plurality of references.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of references comprises allowing a user to search the web for references.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of references comprises allowing a user to search a database of references.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the database is maintained by an official patent office.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system for managing electronic documents, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium in communication with the processor, the computer readable medium comprising a set of instructions executable by the processor, the set of instructions comprising:

(a) instructions to provide a user with access to a plurality of prior art references, wherein each reference is an electronic document;

(b) instructions to maintain an association at the computer system between a first set of one or more references and a first case file, wherein the first case file corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein the association between the first set of references and the first case file indicates that each of the references in the first set of references are relevant to the first patent application, and should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the first patent application;

(c) instructions to maintain an association at the computer system between a second set of one or more references and a second case file, wherein the second case file corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein the association between the second set

of references and the second case file indicates that each of the references in the second set of references is relevant to the second patent ~~application~~; application, and should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the second patent application;

(d) instructions to provide a first interface element that is configured to allow a user to invoke a display of a list of the second set of references;

(e) in response to receiving a first input from a user, the first input corresponding to the first interface element, instructions to ~~display~~ display, for the user, a list of the second set of references, wherein the instructions to display the list of the second set of references comprise instructions to display ~~comprises~~ an identifier corresponding to a first reference within the second set of references;

(f) instructions to provide a second interface element that is configured to allow the user to select the first reference as being relevant to the first patent application and indicate that the first reference should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the first patent application;

(g) in response to receiving from the user a second input corresponding to the second interface element, instructions to associate the first reference with the first case file; and

~~(k)~~ (h) instructions to create an electronic information disclosure statement for the first patent application, wherein the electronic disclosure statement comprises information corresponding to the first reference.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program comprising a set of instructions executable by one or more computers, the set of instructions comprising:

(a) instructions to provide a user with access to a plurality of prior art references, wherein each reference is an electronic document;

(b) instructions to maintain an association at the computer system between a first set of one or more references and a first case file, wherein the first case file corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein the association between the first set of references and the

first case file indicates that each of the references in the first set of references are relevant to the first patent ~~application~~; application, and should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the first patent application;

(c) instructions to maintain an association at the computer system between a second set of one or more references and a second case file, wherein the second case file corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein the association between the second set of references and the second case file indicates that each of the references in the second set of references is relevant to the second patent ~~application~~; application, and should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the second patent application;

(d) instructions to provide a first interface element that is configured to allow a user to invoke a display of a list of the second set of references;

(e) in response to receiving a first input from a user, the first input corresponding to the first interface element, instructions to ~~display display, for the user,~~ a list of the second set of references, wherein the instructions to display the list of the second set of references comprise instructions to display ~~comprises~~ an identifier corresponding to a first reference within the second set of references;

(f) instructions to provide a second interface element that is configured to allow the user to select the first reference as being relevant to the first patent application and indicate that the first reference should be disclosed to a patent office in connection with the first patent application;

(g) in response to receiving from the user a second input corresponding to the second interface element, instructions to associate the first reference with the first case file; and

~~(k)~~ ~~(h)~~ instructions to create an electronic information disclosure statement for the first patent application, wherein the electronic disclosure statement comprises information corresponding to the first reference.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as recited by claim 1, wherein:
the electronic information disclosure statement comprises a plurality of fields for storing information from the first reference;

wherein the first reference comprises information corresponding to the plurality of fields, and

creating the electronic information disclosure statement comprises extracting the information from the first reference via an automated process and storing the information in the plurality of fields in the electronic information disclosure ~~statement~~, statement via the automated process.